



## Shire Bulletin October 2024



### SHIRE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The first round of the Shire of Northampton's Community Grant process was recently completed, with a pleasing number of community organisation, groups or individuals being awarded up to \$5,000 for a range of causes. This first grant round was slightly undersubscribed, and the Shire awarded almost \$48,000 of the intended \$60,000, subject to some minor clarifications, from some applications. It was co-incidentally interesting, and pleasing to see, that the money was distributed in line with the population spread between Kalbarri, Northampton and Horrocks, and for youth, adults and seniors. There will be a second, smaller round which opens in January. Details can be found on the website.

It appears this year's growing season, which started late, rained furiously every week for three months, may have now ended as abruptly as it started. This means that unsealed roads have dried out (although there are still some wet patches), leaving some roads with damaged areas exposed. At the September meeting, Council committed to some extra funding to maintenance in preparation for a busy harvest. If you have an issue with a road near you, please be in touch with Neil, the Executive Manager of Works and Technical Services.

I had the opportunity to open a Health and Building symposium last Friday and give a brief snapshot and update on what is happening in our local government. This was an opportunity to reflect among other things, on how we are going after TC Seroja and the almost 20 attendees, spread from an area from Kalgoorlie, the Wheatbelt and Carnarvon, were very engaged and keenly asked questions. I was able to explain how very proud of how our community has conducted itself in the recovery process.

School holidays are in full swing and while I haven't been in Kalbarri, Horrocks or Port Gregory since they started, I'm told the towns are busy with tourists and the traffic is extreme. Certainly, the NWC Hwy is as busy as I've seen it – even before the school holidays.

Work has commenced on NWC highway at White Peak, on road widening in preparation for a road into the Oakajee Strategic Industrial Area. My understanding is that after Christmas, works will also commence on a new bridge over the Buller River. Please factor time delays on your travels to Geraldton and as always, take care on the roads. With more volume of traffic, some drivers seem to lose their capacity to drive safely.

Finally, I'm sure I wasn't the only Northampton resident who eagerly watched the 2024 Brownlow count to witness Patrick Cripps win for a second time. It's hard to put accurately into words the magnitude of Paddy's achievement – to win by a record breaking 45 votes, when the previous record was 36, is quite simply, smashing it! Not to mention, he has achieved this with a new baby in the house! (And special mention to Paddy's wife Mon, for the part she must surely play).

For many of us, having watched Paddy grow up, as a pretty handy junior footballer, but very much a normal kid, to see him transform into the outstanding player, leader and person he now is, inspires absolute awe.

Paddy is loyal, hard-working, brave, resilient beyond words, and above all humble and down-to-earth. He always takes the opportunity to pay homage to his family, his upbringing and his home town. Paddy IS changed by his success – steadily improving and constantly working on his character and his mind power, as well as his body and fitness, to continually strive to be better and better. He routinely and honestly reflects on his performances – in every aspect of his life. While we can't all be AFL superstars, we can take a leaf out of Paddy's book and practice consistently being open-minded to develop better habits, skills and actions. Patrick Cripps: CONGRATULATIONS, we salute you!!

**Liz Sudlow**  
Shire President

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Tropical Cyclone Seroja Coastal Infrastructure repairs are underway in earnest after years of navigating the Disaster Relief Funding Arrangement process. Contractors are fully mobilised and are working at Chinaman's, Jacques Point and the Anchorage Temporary Caravan Facility. Soon they will be extending their mobilisation to Blue Holes after school holidays and to a lesser extent, Red Bluff before the end of the year. As expected, the works have caused community disruption and in collaboration with contractors, we are trying to minimise impacts as much as possible. Please be patient as we hoped to have the bulk of works completed by the end of the year.

The Shire has recently had our first cost-effective modular house delivered to Northampton on Stephen Street. This house will be used as primarily as staff housing as we prepare for economic growth in the district due to prospective renewable energy/hydrogen, mining and tourism projects.



New house in Stephen Street, Northampton

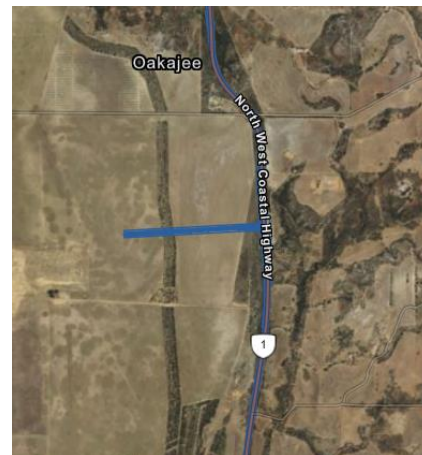
The Shire is very cognisant of this year's harvest and will be doing whatever we can to prepare the roads to a suitable standard for heavy vehicles. At the meeting held 19 September 2024 Council allocated additional funding for a contractor (in addition to the Shire team) to fast-track unsealed road repair in preparation for harvest. Roads repairs will be prioritised on usage, condition and whether they are dry enough to operate heavy machinery on. Please be patient as we endeavour to get through our unsealed heavy haulage unsealed road network and if you have a specific issue you would like to discuss or report, please do not hesitate to contact the Shire.

Whilst we are on roads, the Shire is attempting to access disaster relief funding for the significant rainfall events that damaged our roads across the district over June and July 2024. Whilst this process can be difficult to navigate, we are hopeful of funding success which would allow the damaged roads to undergo significant repairs over a shorter duration.

The Shire is also pleased to advise that the second stage of the Kalbarri-Ajana Road widening project has been funded by the State Government. The Shire was expecting \$2.5M as part of the 2024/25 but was pleasantly surprised with an additional \$2.8M on top of that which will enable the project to extend much further than originally planned in 2024/25.

The Shire is about to commence a major review of the Strategic Community Plan as part of its statutory requirements. This process will be facilitated by a consultant and involve consultative processes with the community over the next six months. This is a great opportunity for the community to have a say on the strategic direction of the Shire of Northampton and the communities we live within.

As you may be aware, there is a lot of Main Roads WA activity on North West Coastal Highway happening south of Northampton in the vicinity of Oakajee. Current activity is centred around a 1km access road with acceleration and deceleration lanes on the highway planned to be approximately 1.8kms in length in each direction. Traffic management is in place and some delays are being experienced, please factor this into your travel plans.



(A rough sketch of the activity is attached above.)

More information can be found at:  
[www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/all-projects/regional/north-west-coastal-highway-upgrades/](http://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/projects-initiatives/all-projects/regional/north-west-coastal-highway-upgrades/)

The Shire is in negotiations of a final agreement for the Kalbarri Foreshore Revitalisation project with Mid West Development Commission. At the meeting 19 September 2024 Council progressed the Kalbarri Foreshore Redevelopment Advisory Committee by appointing membership representing the community. In coming months, the Committee will be overseeing the development of final designs and priorities.

**Andrew Campbell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## HOW YOUR RATES ARE CALCULATED

The amount of rates payable is determined by three factors – the method of valuing the land; the value of the land and improvements; and the rate in the dollar applied to the valuation by the Local Government.

The Minister for Local Government determines the appropriate method for the valuation of land according to the relevant legislation and the current rating policy, which determines whether the Unimproved Value (UV) or the Gross Rental Value (GRV) of the land applies. The purpose for which land is held or used determines the classification (ie. UV or GRV).

You will also find an 'Emergency Services Levy' included on the rate notice. Local Government collects this levy each year on behalf of the State Government and funds are then disbursed to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. This levy funds various operating costs, training and capital equipment purchases for the Bush Fire Brigade, Career and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and the State Emergency Services.

### Pension Rebates

The Pensioners and Seniors Rebate Scheme is a mechanism that provides a rebate or deferment of charges to eligible pensioners and seniors. Concessions apply to Local Government rates charges, water service charges, emergency services levy and underground electricity connection charge. Pensioners or seniors who hold an eligible concession card and own and occupy residential property on or before 1 July may be entitled to a rebate.

The Water Corporation accepts applications over the phone (1300 659 951) or via an online application facility via [www.watercorporation.com.au](http://www.watercorporation.com.au). More information can be found online in the form of a Fact Sheet titled *Pensioners and Seniors Concessions Scheme*.

## REGISTER FOR eRATES

Did you know you can receive your rate notices via email instead of post. You can now register for eRates via our website.

<https://www.northampton.wa.gov.au/shire-services/rates/register-for-erates.aspx>

**Register for e-Rates**

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION REGISTER

The Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register (STRA) is an initiative of the Western Australian Government through the *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Act 2024*.

The register will open on 1 July 2024 and will become mandatory for all Short-Term Rental Accommodation Providers on 1 January 2025. Initial Registration to the portal is \$250 and there is a renewal fee of \$100 per year.

Register your property with the STRA between July and September 2024 to have the initial registration fee of \$250 waived.

For more information visit the Short-Term Rental Accommodation Register website:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/short-term-rental-accommodation>

## RETIREMENT OF NORTHAMPTON GARDENER, SUE KOPPENSTEINER

Sue Koppensteiner has been with the Shire of Northampton for several years – first joining the gardening crew on a full-time basis in June 2005. Sue retired (the first time) in June 2018 and then joined us again in October 2021 on a casual employee basis. She has spent that time until last Friday 13 September 2024, tending and maintaining the Shire's parks and gardens with a positive and energetic attitude. We wish Sue all the best in the future and hope she gets to work in and enjoy her own garden as she has reminisced about for a while. Thank you Sue for your commitment to the Shire of Northampton over many years.

## AUSTRALIA DAY COMMUNITY GRANTS ARE NOW OPEN



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Applications are now OPEN!

Under the National Australia Day Council's Australia Day 2025 Community Events Grant Program, event hosts can apply for a fixed grant of \$10,000 to deliver inclusive events on Australia Day. An additional \$5,000 is available for events that include Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elements. Read the guidelines and APPLY at

<https://www.australiaday.org.au/grants>

Applications close at 5pm AEDT, Friday 11 October 2024.

## REGIONAL PENSIONER TRAVEL CARD

From 1 July 2024, the Regional Pensioner Travel Card replaces the Country Age Pension Fuel Card. The Travel Card provides eligible pensioners with up to



\$675 a year toward the cost of fuel and taxi travel from participating providers. Visit your participating regional post office for an application form. Am I eligible?

The Travel Card applies to regional residents in receipt of one of the following:

- Centrelink Age Pension
- Carer Payment
- Disability Support Pension
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension
- Social Security Age Pension
- Income Support Supplement.

For assistance call the Travel Card Information Line on 1300 666 609 or visit [www.wa.gov.au/travelcard](http://www.wa.gov.au/travelcard)

## LIBRARY NEWS



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How it works:

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- Sync across devices – HOOPLA syncs across all your devices, so you can pick up right where you left off, no matter where you are.
- Free for you – enjoy all this amazing content at no cost, thanks to your public library! Titles may vary based on the library catalogue.
- Explore more about HOOPLA and start borrowing today at <https://www.hoopladigital.com.au>

## COUNCILLORS

**Cr Liz Sudlow, President – 0427 362 025**  
**Cr Rob Horstman, Deputy – 0418 795 368**  
**Cr Roslyn Suckling – 0429 200 143**  
**Cr Trevor Gibb – 0417 920 125**  
**Cr Des Pike – 0417 919 814**  
**Cr Richard Burges – 0417 912 901**  
**Cr Tim Hay – 0488 212 566**  
**Cr Karl Suckling – 0427 839 274**

(please note that as of 21 October 2023 the Shire of Northampton has no Wards)

## SHIRE ADDRESS

### Northampton Office

Hampton Road, Northampton

PO Box 61 Northampton WA 6535

Phone: 9934 1202 Opening Hours: Mon - Fri  
8.00am - 4.30pm (DOT closes at 4.00pm)

### Kalbarri Office

70 Grey St, Kalbarri

Phone: 9937 1097

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00am - 5.00pm  
(closed for lunch 12.30pm - 1pm)

## EMAIL

[council@northampton.wa.gov.au](mailto:council@northampton.wa.gov.au)

## WEBSITE

[www.northampton.wa.gov.au](http://www.northampton.wa.gov.au)

